

**From:** Steven Fuller  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 2:52pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I do not think the idea of having Microsoft provide their products to schools serves as a punishment, but more as a promotion.

1. Microsoft software is already heavily used in schools; this will allow them to have a larger presence.
2. This is an area Apple has tried to cater to, with special promotions to help schools afford hardware/software.
3. Software is something that can be shoveled out for free, because it is not a physical resource. (Example: Internet Explorer vs. Netscape Navigator, which was sold in commercial markets at the time) So, Microsoft is not paying for anything, even though they were supposed to be "punished."
4. The deal is only temporary, as after a few years, the licenses will expire and the schools will then have to pay Microsoft. If these schools are considered 'poor,' where are they going to get the money in a few years? What a nice gift.
5. The idea that introducing Microsoft software into schools to provide students with the tools used in the workplace is a joke. It is unfortunate that Microsoft software is so dominate that people see this as acceptable practice. Computer literacy is not about knowing how to use Microsoft Word; it's about knowing how to use a computer, and software/hardware diversity is an important part of this process.

Please try to find something that actually would work and not try to appease Microsoft.

Steven Fuller